

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

IO-12 OMB-01 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DPW-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 886

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7402

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SITREP APRIL 27

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

NHA TRANG 0440

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP, APRIL 27

1. SUMMARY: MILITARY SITUATION FOLLOWS RECENT PATTERN, WITH HEAVY ACTION IN PHU CU PASS, BINH DINH, BUT LITTLE ELSEWHERE. CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS TRYING TO MAKE ICCS GO IN CEASE- FIRE REGION IV BUT EAST EUROPEANS NOT COOPERATING. FURTHER DETAIL ON CIVILIAN- DETAINEE RELEASES IN MR 2.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: THE PATTERN AND LOCATIONS OF ACTIVITY ON
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APRIL 26 WERE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THOSE OF SEVERAL RECENT DAYS.

MR 2 REGIONAL BRIEFING IN NHA TRANG REPORTED TOTAL OF 11 ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENTS, SIX OF THESE IN BINH DINH (THREE IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF THE PHU CU PASS).

3. THE TWO MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS WERE BOTH IN THE PASS AREA. IN ONE INSTANCE, UNKNOWN SIZE ENEMY FORCE REPORTEDLY MADE THREE GROUND ATTACKS OVER 11- HOUR PERIOD ON REGULAR AND RECON COMPANIES OF ARVN 47 TH REGT, KILLING THREE ARVN AND WOUNDING TWO OTHERS, BUT FRIENDLY REACTION RESULTED IN 24 ENEMY KIA AND CAPTURE OF ONE B-40, TWO AK-47' S, TEN B-40 ROUNDS, 40 GRENADES, AND 20 STICKS OF TNT. OTHER INCIDENT SIMILARLY DESCRIBED: HOUR- LONG ATTACK AT DAWN ON RECON COMPANY OF ARVN 42 ND REGIMENT, THIS TIME WITH NO FRIENDLY LOSSES BUT 14 ENEMY KIA AND ONE PRISONER, ONE MORTAR, FOUR INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS AND ONE RADIO CAPTURED.

4. CONGEN COMMENT: EXTREMELY VAGUE MANNER IN WHICH THESE TWO SUPPOSEDLY ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENTS WERE BRIEFED LEAVES CONSIDERABLE DOUBT AS TO THEIR ACTUAL CHARACTER. ALL OF MR 2' S AIRSTRIKES ON APRIL 26, NUMBERING 34, WERE AGAIN FLOWN IN BINH DINH, AND WHILE NONE OF THE 38 ENEMY KIA MENTIONED ABOVE WERE ATTRIBUTED TO AIR ACTION, WE CONSIDER IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT SO MANY ENEMY AND SO FEW ARVN WERE KILLED IN ENEMY- INITIATED GROUND CLASHES. END COMMENT.

5. OTHER FOUR BINH DINH INCIDENTS WERE RELATIVELY MINOR, CONSISTING OF TWO SMALL ABF' S, ONE GRENADE INCIDENT, AND A CASE OF SMALL- ARMS FIRE DIRECTED AT HAMLET IN HOAI NHON DISTRICT WHERE PSDF RESPONDED BY KILLING TWO ENEMY AND CAPTURING ONE. TWO MININGS IN PHU YEN KILLED ONE CIVILIAN, WOUNDED FIVE OTHER CIVILIANS AND ONE RANGER. ONE RF WOUNDED IN A MINING IN LAM DONG. AN ENEMY MORTAR ATTACK IN KHANH HOA CAUSED NO CASUALTIES, AND PF PLATOON IN CENTRAL BINH THUAN KILLED THREE VIET CONG AND CAPTURED ONE WEAPON IN BEATING OFF A SMALL- SCALE GROUND ATTACK.

6. AS FURTHER EXAMPLES OF REASONS FOR OUR DISSATISFACTION WITH NHA TRANG REGIONAL BRIEFING, WOULD CITE FOLLOWING: KONTUM POLOFF REPORTS THAT ACTION IN DAK ROCOT AREA, APPROX 8 KMS NW OF PROVINCE CAPITAL, HAS CONTINUED EVER SINCE SMALL ENEMY FORCE WITH UNKNOWN OBJECTIVE ENTERED AREA ON APRIL 18 (SAIGON 6877, APRIL 20 SIT REP). AREA UNTIL THEN HAD BEEN EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED BY ARVN 53 RD REGIMENT T, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH HAS BEEN USING ARTILLERY IN REPLY TO REPEATED ENEMY MORTAR ATTACKS. ARVN CLAIMS TO HAVE INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES AND ADMITS TO HAVING TAKEN NUMEROUS WIA, BUT NONE OF THIS ACTIVITY HAS BEEN BRIEFED IN NHA TRANG. SIMILARLY, ARRO REP IN BINH THUAN SAYS SECTOR BRIEFING THERE MORNING OF APRIL 27 REPORTED FIVE ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENTS IN PREVIOUS 24 HOURS, ONLY ONE OF WHICH (APPARENTLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT) WAS BRIEFED IN NHA TRANG (PARA 5

ABOVE) AND WITH DIFFERENT ENEMY CASUALTY FIGURE. FINALLY, LAM DONG POLOFF REPORTS A SECOND MINING THERE ON APRIL 26; THIS INCIDENT LIKE- WISE NOT BRIEFED IN NHA TRANG.

7. PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE NO SO MUCH SYSTEMATIC CONCEALMENT OF FRIENDLY OPERATIONS (ALTHOUGH THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME OF THIS) OR EFFORT TO COVER UP ENEMY SUCCESSES (THEY HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY FEW AND MINOR ANYWAY IN RECENT WEEKS) AS IT IS GENERAL INCOMPETENCE, VAGUENESS, AND FAILURE TO COORDINATE OR EVEN INCLUDE REPORTAGE OF SOME ACTIONS INVOLVING ARVN DIVISIONS OR NAVAL AND AIR ACTIVITY.

8. ICCS: BINH THAUN PROVINCE CHIEF' S DISSATISFACTION WITH WHAT HE CALLS " POLGARIAN" ATTITUDE IN ICCS HAS LED HIM TO INSTRUCT REGIONAL GVN TPJMC CHIEF TO PRESENT COMPLAINTS TO " CANDONESIANS" ONLY AND TO IGNORE EAST EUROPEANS.
" POLEGARIANS" AT PHAN THIET REPORTEDLY NOW CONSENT TO UNDERTAKE INVESTIGATIONS ONLY WHEN PRG AS WELL AS GVN WILL GUARANTEE THEIR SECURITY; THIS, OF COURSE, IS ACADEMIC FOR NOW SINCE PRG HAS DEPLOYED NO ONE TO PHAN THIET SINCE REGIONAL FPJMC DELEGATION LEFT FOR SAIGON ALMOST FOUR WEEKS AGO.

9. THUS GVN PROTESTED ATTACK ON A RESETTLEMENT PROJECT APRIL 26 (APPARENTLY THE INCIDENT DESCRIBED AS ATTACK ON PF PLATOON, PARA 5 ABOVE) TO " CANDONESIANS" ONLY, AND THEY ARE RESPONDING WITH A PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION TRIP. (VC HAD REPORTEDLY DISTRIBUTED LEAFLETS WARNING PEOPLE THAT RESETTLEMENT AREA WAS UNDER VC CONTROL AND PERMISSION TO RESETTLE WOULD HAVE TO BE OBTAINED FROM PRG. ARRO REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THAT PEOPLE HAVE IGNORED LEAFLETS AND CONTINUE TO RESETTLE.)

10. ALL FOUR ICCS ELEMENTS IN BAO LOC, LAM DONG PROVIN
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E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS S SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP, APRIL 27
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